

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Dae-Ho CHOO, *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/602,054

Confirmation No.: 1023

Filed: June 24, 2003

Docket No.: 6192.0219.D1

Group Art Unit: 2871

Examiner: RUDE, Timothy L.

For: **IN-LINE SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING LIQUID
CRYSTAL DISPLAY**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION FROM REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION
UNDER 37 CFR §1.144**

Sir:

In the Requirement for Restriction mailed on December 15, 2003, the Examiner stated that the application contains eleven (11) independent and distinctive INVENTION I to INVENTION XI. Also, the Examiner stated that INVENTION II contains two (2) patentably distinctive species, SPECIES A and SPECIES B, INVENTION VI contains two (2) patentably distinctive species, SPECIES C and SPECIES D, and INVENTION X contains two (2) patentably distinctive species, SPECIES E and SPECIES F.

In response, Applicants *provisionally* elected INVENTION I *with traverse* in the Response to the Requirement for Restriction filed January 15, 2004.

The Examiner mailed an Office Communication on April 21, 2004 that Applicants' response is not fully responsive to the prior Requirement for Restriction and claim 1 should be amended to delete the limitations drawn to non-elected inventions.

Applicants *provisionally* elected INVENTION IX *with traverse* in a Reply to the Office Communication on May 20, 2004. In the Office Action mailed on August 4, 2004, the Examiner stated that the Requirement for Restriction is still deemed proper and made the Requirement *final*.

In this petition, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal the Requirement for Restriction.

This application is directed to a *single* invention, which is an in-line system for manufacturing a liquid crystal display, comprising several essential elements, such as (a) a sealant-applying unit, (b) a liquid crystal depositing unit and (c) a substrate-attaching unit, and other non-essential elements. According to the invention, the liquid crystal depositing unit deposits liquid crystal material on a substrate *before* the substrate-attaching unit conjoins the substrate with another substrate in a vacuum. This reduces the manufacturing time compared to the conventional apparatus, which conjoins two substrates before injecting liquid crystal material through an injection hole.

In the Requirement for Restriction, the Examiner failed to grasp this and asserted that this application discloses eleven independent and distinct different inventions. However, as explained above, this application discloses a single invention, which is an in-line system for manufacturing a liquid crystal display.

In fact, the sealant-applying unit (asserted INVENTION I), liquid crystal depositing unit (asserted INVENTION II), substrate-attaching unit (asserted INVENTION III), loading unit (asserted INVENTION IV), substrate-combination unit (asserted INVENTION V), heat-treating unit (asserted INVENTION VI), spacer-dispersing unit (asserted INVENTION VII), substrate-attaching unit (asserted INVENTION VIII), in-line conveying unit (asserted INVENTION IX),


vacuum-chamber (asserted INVENTION X) and exposure unit (asserted INVENTION XI) are *all the components* constituting the in-line system for manufacturing a liquid crystal display.

The assertion that this application contains eleven independent and distinct inventions has no support from the application. Since the Requirement for Restriction is based on the Examiner's incorrect determination of the disclosed invention, it is respectfully petitioned that the Requirement for Restriction be withdrawn.

Also, since the Request for Restriction is believed to be inappropriate, the Requirement for Election of SPECIES A to F would be also inappropriate. Thus, it is petitioned that the Requirement for Election be withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Petition is respectfully requested. A check for the fee required under 37 CFR §1.20(d) is submitted herewith. Please charge any deficiency and credit any overpayment to Attorney's Deposit Account 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



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